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though composed and written on the spot, are but a feeble portraiture of the beauties they would depict. I have used but little levigation since, fearing by any attempt at polish they might become less like

#### THE HARBOUR.

'Tis noon ! The sky is clear—the sunny deep  
Is still, save where the rippling breezes sweep  
Woosing, and whispering along, to sleep.  
Each stately ship reposed at anchor rides—  
By it the sportive ripple, as it glides,  
Laughs in the sun-beams, and uncertain plays  
On the dark vessel with reflected rays.  
Now o'er the lulling waters flit awhile,  
Broken reflections of the floating pile ;  
Th' inconstant breeze each trembling charm enhancing,  
As beauty's eye most fascinates in glancing,  
Or as the glimpse *our* parting clouds bestow  
Of heav'n's blue ether, gladdens more the view  
Than in those realms of sultry solstice glow,  
    *Their* one unchang'd expanse of azure hue.  
Hush'd ev'ry sound of man, of toil, of care,  
The wanton pennons dally in mid-air,  
All silent though not still. For ev'n the bark  
That fleets as rapid as electric spark  
O'er the blue surface—mystic motion giv'n—  
Seems by a silent secret impulse driv'n ;  
Unheard the music of the plashing oar,  
    That brightly sparkles on the raptur'd sight !  
Though lost its sound—so distant from the shore—  
    It gleams in measur'd harmony of light !  
Gliding, like Pleasure's form, o'er flowerets bright  
Of aerial fairy tread—no sound awaking,  
It seems to move “ in light of its own making.”  
Soothing the scene ! Haply those realms of bliss  
May prove a haven, typified in this—  
A calm eternity of peaceful light,  
Where wearied souls may rest them from their flight,  
And happy spirits, like those fleet barks, move  
Ever in radiant harmony above !

Will you, Mr. Editor, and you, gentle reader, (if it be the pleasure of Mr. Editor that the foregoing lucubrations shall meet the eye of any reader more or less gentle than himself,) will you, I pray you, forgive the egotism or egoism (for difference, vide *Book of the Boudoir*,) of my discourse upon headaches ! If you are subject to such visitations, I am sure you will—and if you are not, I can only pray, in Christian charity, that “ a fellow-feeling may never make you wondrous kind !”

G. F. M.

#### PERSONAL SKETCH.—LORD PLUNKET.

The intemperate ravings of ungrateful men, cannot prevent generous minds from rejoicing at the exaltation of transcendent talent. Despite party prejudice, we share the triumph of the man of genius—the more especially if sprung from obscurity. We think of the early difficulties which he surmounts by his dauntless energy—of the poverty which he conquers by industry and perseverance—of his hardships, hopes, and fears while a friendless student, which none, save those who have felt them, can properly conceive. We observe him emerging from nameless poverty, forcing his way up the hill of fame and honour, subduing

opposition, outstripping every rival; and we are gladdened in heart at the cheering spectacle of his final and glorious success. We should exult the more when we consider how different has been the fate of many highly gifted individuals, not less worthy distinction than the subject of this sketch—how many men, in every profession, of the highest talents and profoundest erudition, after wasting their health by the intensity of their application, have perished broken-hearted victims in the pursuit of fame—how many have been crushed by poverty, or withered by neglect. With regard to the promotion of Lord Plunket, faction might for once pay homage to the excellence of genius, recollecting that the judicial bench has been too frequently debased by venality and dulness.

Lord Plunket is the son of a Presbyterian minister, who died, leaving his family plunged in distress: by the assistance of a friend, he was enabled to pursue his collegiate studies, as the preparatory step to the attainment of a profession. The fact of his Lordship having been brought up among the dissenters, may have had no slight influence as to the formation of his character. Whatever may be the peculiarities of dissenters, it must be admitted, that their tenets and conduct encourage boldness of thought, and freedom of discussion, prompt men to express their feelings freely, and maintain them resolutely, to respect the sacred rights of conscience, and worship liberty as a goddess deserving unmixed and continual devotion. The Presbyterians were foremost in spirit, intelligence, and power; they had raised Ireland from the degradation into which she had fallen; achieved her independence; and they were justly proud of the noble work which they had accomplished. Bred up amongst such a class, his Lordship must have imbibed liberal opinions—his enemies assert they bordered upon republicanism; but heartless men cannot discriminate between a virtuous enthusiasm for liberty, and a wild revolutionary spirit. His Lordship became a member of the Historical Society, in its best days; a society, which, whatever bad habits it may have engendered, is entitled to the lofty praise of having been a noble school for the instruction of the noblest faculty which the bounty of heaven has bestowed on man. He soon attained eminence as a speaker; his eloquence was bold and rapid, nervous and impressive, as it continues at the present day, save that it is matured by wisdom, and tempered by experience. He quoted no verses; he delivered no mean conceptions wrapt up in pompous words; avoided rant and declamation; speaking logically and brilliantly, he delighted his audience by the charms of his eloquence, no less than he convinced their judgments by the soundness of his reasonings. When we consider what a mighty ally oratory is to him who aspires to public or professional distinction, when from the events every day passing around us, we behold the prodigious influence it exercises over the passions and judgments of men, instigating them to magnanimous or wicked actions, according as its tendency is good or evil, we must be struck with astonishment that the study of eloquence should be so completely forbidden in our universities, as though it were a black art. May we not fairly hope, that if ever the political excitement which now rages through the land, shall abate, that the liberality of the board may tempt them to re-establish the Historical Society, the memory of which, even now, sheds a lustre on our university and our country. Lord Plunket's university character travelled before him to the bar, and prepared his friends for his early and signal success. When keeping terms in London, he was an intense student; and never man devoted himself more

eagerly to the mastery of the most recondite learning of his profession. In his person was strikingly disproved, the silly, but too prevalent opinion, that unabated perseverance is incompatible with splendid genius. One of his earliest friends was Archbishop Magee, with whose capacity and learning the public have been long familiar: the intercourse and intimacy of such men must have been equally beneficial to both—the literary triumphs of the one, must have stimulated the other, by a noble rivalry, to perseverance. Their political disagreement in after life diminished, it was said, the friendship which had been formed and cemented in their youth, when their opinions could scarcely have been discordant. The charge of inconsistency brought against either, might be obviated by considering, that the question on which they differed most widely, had not *then* engrossed the attention of the public. But Lord Plunket had another and a dearer friend in Mr. Burrowes: their attachment has been deep and lasting—alike honourable to both—the growth of mutual esteem and mutual affection. And no one circumstance reflects more honour upon Lord Plunket's character as a man, than the unalterable regard with which he has repaid the unshaken friendship of Mr. Burrowes—a friendship, of which the highest individual in the land might feel justly proud.

The success of Lord Plunket at the bar was prompt and decisive, and that at a time when eminence was not easy of attainment—when every inch of the ground was disputed by numerous rivals of extraordinary merit. He had to contend with the sweet-tongued and persuasive Burke, whose seductive oratory enchanted every ear—the sound learning and serious logic of Saurin—the wisdom and experience of Burston—the power and simplicity of Burrowes—the irresistible wit, the deep and touching pathos of Curran. I am tempted to pause, and ask where are we to look for the worthy successors of such men? The attorneys may answer, Messrs. Bennett, Perrin, Litton, Wallace, O'Loghlin, Doherty—unquestionably good lawyers, and respectable men. They are modest, I am satisfied, and would feel conscious that they could be compared to the illustrious individuals who, fortunately for them, have now left the field, only in the bitterness of derision. The oratory of the Irish bar has been sneered at: it will now be sneered at no more—the genius of eloquence has nearly fled, to make way for declamatory ebullitions, nerveless insipidity, or prosing tameness.

Lord Plunket was engaged in the celebrated case of the petition to the Irish house of commons, against the return of Hutchinson for the University of Dublin. His printed speech on that memorable occasion is excellent, of course; but certainly not superior to that delivered by his friend, Mr. Burrowes. They did all that men could do, and failed; for what can even the sublimest eloquence achieve, when matched against hardened and profligate corruption? His practice at this time was extensive, and he possessed every requisite, as a lawyer, to preserve and extend it; while his acknowledged superiority, as a public speaker, marked him out as likely to be a powerful ally to any political party to which he might become attached. He was introduced, accordingly, into the Irish parliament, in the days of its grossest corruption, and soon became one of the most conspicuous public characters of the time. The speeches delivered by his Lordship in the Irish house of commons are deeply interesting. There is a recklessness about them, which seizes the attention, and compels you to believe in the earnest sincerity of the man who could employ such daring language. He thundered forth his invectives with the most unsparing fury, and lashed his opponents with

merciless and incessant sarcasms: ridicule he disdained—scorn, hatred, and revenge, were the weapons of his wrath.

In the debates upon the union, his passion was ungovernable, his indignation boundless; he vented his rage upon the devoted head of Castlereagh with relentless bitterness. The few sentences in which he drew a comparison between Mr. Pitt and Lord Castlereagh, are unequalled for the mingled expression of envy and contempt. "The example of the prime minister of England, inimitable in its vices, may deceive the noble Lord. The minister of England has his faults: he abandoned, in his latter years, the principles of reform; by professing which, he had obtained the early confidence of the people of England; and in the whole of his political conduct, he has shown himself haughty and untractable: but it must be admitted, that he has shown himself by nature endowed with a towering and transcendent intellect, and that the vastness of his moral resources keeps pace with the magnificence and unboundedness of his projects. I thank God that it is much more easy for him to transfer his apostacy and his insolence, than his comprehension and sagacity; and I feel the safety of my country in the wretched feebleness of her enemy. I cannot fear that the constitution, which has been formed by the wisdom of sages, and cemented by the blood of patriots and of heroes, is to be smitten to its centre by such a green and limber twig as this." Of quotations, he has ever been most sparing, especially of poetical *morceaux*, which are the vulgar embellishments of inferior orators; but whenever he did adopt them, they were singularly felicitous and pointed in their application. The following passage from a speech upon the union, furnishes a striking exemplification of this: "The independence of a nation, I must own, does not appear to me to be exactly that kind of bagatelle which is to be offered by way of compliment, either to the youth of the noble Lord, who honours us by his presence in this house, or to the old age of the noble Marquis, who occasionally sheds his setting lustre over the other; to the first I am disposed to say, in the words of Waller—

‘ I pray thee, gentle boy,  
Press me no more for that slight toy.’

And to the latter, I might apply the language of Lady Constance: ‘ That’s a good child—go to its grandam—give grandam kingdom, and its grandam will give it a plumb, a cherry, and a fig—there’s a good grandam.’ I hope, therefore, Sir, I shall not be thought impolite, if I decline the offer of the constitution of Ireland, either as a garland to adorn the youthful brow of the secretary, or to be suspended over the pillow of the viceroy." A classical quotation of his Lordship’s in the imperial parliament, was likewise remarkable for strength and application; it was that wherein he compared the fury of the excluded Catholics to the

‘ *Irae leonum,  
Vincla recusantum.*’

It must be admitted, that however the vehement adjurations and passionate appeals in his union speeches may have been warranted by the excitement of the moment, yet, when perused calmly, at this distance of time, appear to border upon the ridiculous; as where he exclaims, "For my own part, I will resist it to the last gasp of my existence, and with the last drop of my blood; and when I feel the hour of my dissolution approaching, I will, like the futher of Hannibal, take my children to the altar, and swear them to eternal hostility against the invaders of their country’s freedom." His Lordship has changed his

mind wonderfully for the better ; and relaxing somewhat from the sternness of his Roman resolution, deemed it more consistent with the character of parental affection, instead of swearing his sons to eternal hostility at the altar, to swear them into snug official situations.

This is not the fit place to discuss the policy or impolicy of the union ; but I may observe, that I can perfectly comprehend how a man might sincerely resist the enactment of that measure, and as sincerely and consistently resist its repeal. A rooted conviction of the irrevocable nature of that measure, may have naturally increased the violence of his Lordship's opposition to it ; but that because he resisted the measure of the union, thirty years ago, he should now, under different circumstances, and at a different time, struggle for a dismemberment of the empire, does not appear to me to be very logical or very rational.

That he will in parliament oppose to the uttermost the repeal of the union, his connection with the present ministry fully testifies ; that he can do so without being obnoxious to the charge of inconsistency, is obvious to every candid mind. His speeches in the Irish house of commons, although differing in style, were scarcely inferior to any delivered by even the best of his contemporaries : they read better than many of Grattan's ; for the logic is more easy, the language more clear and unembarrassed, the metaphors not so far-fetched, and the style less elaborate and antithetical ; his invective, although quite as caustic and severe, was not so gross and personal ; he eclipsed Curran in the character of a senator ; but before a jury, was inferior to that incomparable advocate. Although his delivery was not so graceful, or his words so flowing as that of Bushe, yet his thoughts were more robust, his action more unstudied and impressive.

He entered the imperial parliament, member for the university of Dublin ; nor could that learned corporation have selected a representative better qualified to uphold their dignity and the honour of the country. How unlike the fate of Flood was that of Plunket, in the English house of commons ; the first, with every attribute of greatness failed, the triumph of the latter was complete. His sound judgment soon taught him to adapt his style to the serious character of his hearers. Hence it is, that although a sarcastic vein prevails in many of his speeches delivered in St. Stephens, yet the total absence of that haughty and almost insulting spirit of irony, which pervades his earlier efforts, is easily perceivable. The members, on the other hand, soon saw the sort of man they had to deal with—they feared and respected him ; and the character which he once gained amongst them, he never subsequently lost. He was not a talkative member, nor did he delight in making rapid observations on the presentation of petitions ; he held himself in reserve for the proper opportunity, and then showed that he knew how to use it.

The Catholic question was the theme in which his abilities shone forth most conspicuously ; his name became identified with that great measure, and he was ever regarded as its best and ablest advocate : he was master of the subject in its principles and details, for he had considered it long and attentively : he was likewise intimately acquainted with the condition of the country which it more immediately concerned ; his speeches, consequently, teemed with cogent arguments and valuable information on the matter. His admirers say, that his speech delivered in 1813, in bringing forward the Catholic question, was his most brilliant and triumphant effort in the British senate ; but I conceive that all his speeches on this subject are equally excellent and convincing : they

are even finished compositions—every sentence is perfect and compact ; the speaker seems resolved not to detain you a moment longer than is necessary—his mind hurries on to the conclusion. How forcible are his illustrations : “ The time to have paused was before we have heaved, from those sons of earth, the mountains which the wisdom or the terrors of our ancestors had heaped upon them ; but we have raised them up, and placed them erect—are we prepared to hurl them down, and bury them again ? ” It is admitted, that in the debate on this question, he excelled every other speaker : Canning joked sometimes, Castlereagh blundered, Brougham got furious, but Plunket, equally elegant, was more guarded and convincing. All was respect and attention while he spoke ; I never saw a man listened to with such marked attention, nor heard cheers so loud and triumphant, as those which accompanied his forcible and conclusive sentences. The most remarkable of his speeches upon other subjects, was that spoken on the Manchester riots : his power was such, that by turning round to assist the government and assault the radical faction, he may be said to have saved the country from ruin. At that unhappy time, the discontent of the people was so fierce and violent, the schemes of sedition so numerous and powerful, that the government of the country might be said to be actually reeling from its position. Plunket lent his aid to prop it up and by what was considered an astonishing effort of argument and eloquence, gave to the frightened house of commons the tone and the temper which the time required : he spoke of the radicals of the day as “ incendiaries, with their levers placed under the great pillars of social order, and heaving the constitution from its foundation.” And yet, distinguished critics have termed this speech feeble and degenerate, compared with those inimitable specimens of masculine, chaste, epigrammatic, vehement eloquence, which the oration on the Catholic question displayed. He has been accused of resting too much “ upon the general notoriety of facts ” in the debate on the Manchester riots ; the Edinburgh Review observing it was just such a speech as any lawyer might make up from his brief. After this criticism from the Edinburgh, it is amusing to turn to the Quarterly—what does it say of Plunket and his speech ? “ As might have been expected from the known character of Mr. Plunket’s public speaking, his speech is eminent for the unlaboured clearness and compactness of its reasoning, for the noble simplicity of its style and manner, and for the soundness and devotion of its political views.” The reviewer then descants upon Irish eloquence, and bestowing upon it a just and splendid encomium, proceeds to observe, that Plunket’s style *was all once English*. A most admired passage may not be entirely inapplicable to the present times : “ To whom are these calamities to be attributed ? Is it not to those who, actuated by selfish motives of ambition, (no, I will not say ambition, I will not squander a word often applied to nobler aspirations, to such base designs)—is it not to those who seek mischief for mischief’s sake, who would let loose the whirlwind, though with the conscious incapacity to direct it ? Who would lay the fabric of social order in ruin, not so much in the hope of rising upon that ruin, as for the satisfaction of contemplating the havoc and desolation they had made ? ” It is most strange to find two such eminent publications differing upon the merits of a speech, even as a composition. I entirely subscribe to the criticism of the Tory journal, although I do not assent to the fairness of the observation, that his style is all once English.

Lord Plunket preserved his reputation in the senate by speaking but

seldom, and speaking well : but still it must be admitted, that men like learning ; and Brougham, who displayed such ability and information in a vast variety of subjects discussed in parliament, deserves far higher praise than the subject of this sketch, whose exertions were confined within a comparatively narrow sphere.

With Lord Plunket's powerful forensic efforts, every person of taste must be intimately acquainted. Considering his talents as an advocate, it appears somewhat strange, in looking over the mournful catalogue of Irish state trials, not to find his name appearing as counsel for the accused. He seems to have stood aloof, to have given way to Curran, his less solid, but more brilliant contemporary ; the ardent character of the latter eminent person tempted him to mingle more with the people : he was one of themselves, and it was natural they should fly to him for help, when the strong arm was raised against them.

For nearly twenty years, his Lordship practised only in chancery ; for the business of which court, his wonderful sagacity peculiarly fitted him : he was not remarkable for his knowledge of case law, nor did he bolster up his arguments with decisions in point ; frequently, however, his purpose appeared to have been rather to puzzle the judge than to establish his client's case. It has been said, that Plunket ought always to have been counsel for the defendant ; for out of the plaintiff's case he was able to extract arguments to defeat him ; and I have heard, but cannot vouch for the fact, although it seems not improbable, that when a case would be called on, in which he had hardly looked at his brief, he would say, " Well, no matter ; Saurin knows the case, and will say enough for himself and for my purpose too : " thus he always cut a staff at his adversary's hedge, to beat him with. Two memorable jury cases prove in a signal manner the depth of his understanding, and the vigour of his eloquence. The first—the case of the prerogative information against the chief barons, in 1816, is still fresh in the recollection of the profession and the public ; such a blaze of eloquence, on so dry a subject, never before astonished and delighted an Irish audience. Plunket's speech was not showy and ornamental, but replete with antiquarian and recondite learning : sometimes, amidst the profoundest train of reasoning, a sarcastic reflection would escape him. His attack upon Mr. Saurin was intemperate, but useful, as it afforded an opportunity to the present chief justice for the delivery of one of the most beautiful speeches, in reply, ever made in a court of justice. The second trial to which I allude, is that of Hardwick and others, for a conspiracy to create a riot, in 1823. The statement of the then attorney-general, Plunket, was classical, energetic, and luminous ; many parts, on a calm perusal, resemble a beautiful historical composition, as for example, the following character of William the Third : " Perhaps, my Lords, there is not to be found in the annals of history, a character more truly great than that of William the Third. Perhaps no person has ever appeared on the theatre of the world, who has conferred more essential or more lasting benefits on mankind—in these countries certainly none. When I look at the abstract merits of his character, and contemplate him with admiration and reverence—lord of a petty principality—destitute of all resources but those with which nature had endowed him—regarded with jealousy and envy by those whose battles he fought, thwarted in all his counsels, embarrassed in all his movements, deserted in his most critical enterprises, he continued to mould all those discordant materials, to govern all these warring interests ; and merely by the force of his genius, the ascendancy of his integrity, and the immoveable firmness



and constancy of his nature, to combine them into an indissoluble alliance against the schemes of despotism and universal domination of the most powerful monarch in Europe, seconded by the ablest generals, at the head of the bravest and best disciplined armies in the world, and wielding without check or control the unlimited resources of his empire. He was not a consummate general—military men will point out his errors in that respect—fortune did not favour him, save by throwing the lustre of adversity over all his victories. He sustained defeat after defeat, but always rose *adversis rerum immersabilis undis*. Looking merely at his shining qualities and achievements, I admire him as I do a Scipio, a Regulus, a Fabius, a model of tranquil courage, condensating probity, and armed with a resoluteness and constancy in the cause of truth and freedom, which rendered him superior to the accidents that control the fate of ordinary men." The excellence of this glowing description will induce the reader to pardon the length of the quotation.

Enough has been said of his forensic eloquence, to show that it was of matchless force, and sufficiently elevated to raise the imagination to the level of great and vigorous conceptions. Has not such a man as this, a right to the highest honours in his profession? And must not every one who admits and admires the supremacy of genius, feel indignant that reproaches should be hurled against a ministry, for elevating to the highest station in the land, one whose talents are so various and so splendid. He possesses the rare union of high and commanding eloquence, with the most acute and vigorous reasoning powers: his natural logic exceeds that of any living public man. It is astonishing with what might he grasps the argument of an adversary; and while he crushes it to pieces, extracts from it the matter which is to serve his purpose. But there is no trickery nor finesse in this: he is not only a subtle, but a bold logician; he does not nibble away a point from his antagonist, but tears it from him by main force; yet always so as to appear to have reason and fairness on his side. He is collected in debate, but never cold: he is seldom fiery, but then he is never frigid: he is at once skilful and strong; and when his adversary is once thrown, we scarcely know whether it was most by adroitness or by force. And yet, after all, I cannot help thinking, that if he had accepted the office of master of the rolls, and settled in England, he would have injured his fame, and lost a portion of that high renown which he now happily enjoys. In parliament, he would always have maintained his ground; he might have made a good equity judge; but the bar over whom he was to preside, had been accustomed to the immense erudition of Lord Eldon, to the profound wisdom and luminous decisions of Sir William Grant, to either of whom, as equity judges, it may not be deemed presumptuous to assert, Lord Plunket would have been decidedly inferior. Mackintosh must have ranked above him as a philosopher and an author; for Plunket has given to the world no proofs that he is either; while Brougham, his equal in the senate, would have cast him completely into the shade as an universal scholar, as the founder of noble institutions, the friend of science, the encourager of learning, the patron of every good and useful work. Lord Plunket's memory and talents cannot speedily be forgotten; but these illustrious persons have better and more substantial claims upon the attachment of mankind, and their glory will assuredly be more solid and enduring.

W.